unqualified assent. There was obviously no time to discuss Russia's internal difficulties, the lack of food and fuel that was starving the crowded *Russian* and crowding populations of the great *ignored* towns into a state of universal sedition, nor the absence of effective equipment at the front to enable the Army to take its part in the all-round offensive. The Czar feared, so the French Ambassador tells us, " that the delegates would give him unwanted advice on internal politics." He was now reassured on the point. ,You must not presume too much on an Emperor's courtesy in granting at a ceremonial reception such a prolonged interview ; and to requite such a civility by introducing unpleasant topics, and especially after he had conceded the main purpose and petition of the delegates, would have been untactful and discourteous in the extreme.

It is recorded that the Emperor showed his relief at French forbearance by lighting a cigarette and passing on to other groups. He was not sure that conversation with the British and Italian delegates would turn out to be quite as agreeable. He therefore decided to take no risks. The report states that " all had a kind word from him, but nothing more ; he did not linger to talk to anyone."

And at this time " Russia was walking straight into the abyss " and a few weeks later fell into it, dragging with her the amiable and assenting Czar and his

pledge to France.

At that time it was taken for granted that a revolution would be confined to the deposition of Czar Nicholas and the substitution of his son. Pledges given by the former would bind his successor. Hence the anxiety of the French Ministry to extract this understanding before the present Czar disappeared